

**Federal/State Proposed  
Oil and Gas Lease Sale  
(Sale BF)**

***Public Hearings***

**Nuiqsut I**

**1979**

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

PUBLIC HEARING  
BEAUFORT SEA LEASE SALE

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

May 16, 1979  
Nuiqsut, Alaska

21

22

23

24

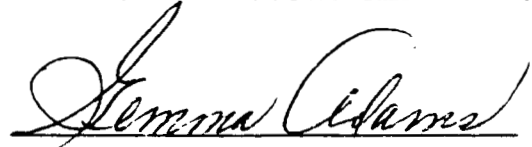
25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

THIS IS TO CERTIFY:

That the attached proceedings in the matter of Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease Sale, Public Hearing, held in Nuiqsut, Alaska, May 16, 1979 were had as herein appears and this is the original transcript thereof.

ALASKA-WIDE COURT REPORTERS

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gemma Adams", is written over a horizontal line.

Reporter

1 PUBLIC HEARING

2 BEAUFORT SEA LEASE SALE

3 BEFORE PANEL MEMBERS:

4 HENRY NOLDEN, Chairman Department of Interior  
5 Bureau of Land Management  
Washington, D.C.  
6 FRAN ULLMER Coastal Policy Committee  
7 Governor's Office  
Juneau, Alaska  
8 DAVE PAGE Department of Interior  
9 Office of Energy and Minerals  
Washington, D.C.  
10 TOM COOK Department of Natural Resources  
11 Anchorage, Alaska  
12 BOB BROCK Bureau of Land Management  
13 OCS Office, Manager  
Anchorage, Alaska  
14 HOYLE HAMILTON Oil and Gas Commission  
Anchorage, Alaska

15 BACKUP PANEL MEMBERS:

16 REED BOHNE NOAA  
17 Washington, D.C.  
18 PAM ROGERS Department of Natural Resources  
Anchorage, Alaska  
19 DON HENNIGER OCS  
20 Anchorage, Alaska  
21 BILL VAN DYKE Department of Natural Resources  
Anchorage, Alaska  
22 RICH CARROLL OCS  
23 Anchorage, Alaska  
24 BOB GOFF USGS  
25 Anchorage, Alaska

1 ALSO PRESENT THROUGHOUT:

2 CONNIE WASSINK

Public Information Office

3 NORM WALKER

OCS  
Anchorage, Alaska

4 INTERPRETER:

5 EMILY WILSON (IPOLOCK)

Barrow, Alaska

C O N T E N T S

OPENING STATEMENT

Page

THOMAS NAPAGEAK, Mayor

7

HENRY NOLDEN, Chairman

7

PARTICIPANTS

THOMAS NAPAGEAK

10,14,35

WILBER ATUANANUAG

15

SARAH KUNAKANNA

19,39

BESSIE ERICKLOOK

22,27,49

ROSA KAIGELAK

27

SAMUEL KUNAKANNA

28,32

TRISA HOPSON

30,44

HARRIET KASAK

31

NANNY WOODS

33

RUTH NUKAPIGAK

33,45

STEVE BURGESS

37,51

JIMMY NUKAPIGEAK

39

MAGGIE KAWALSKY

40

CLAY KAIGELAK

44

BERNICE AHTUAGARUAK

46

MARJORIE AHNUKANA

47

FLORA IPALOOK

48,52

IRENE OYAGOK

50

ISACC KAIGELAK

50

1	<u>CONTENTS</u> (Continued)	<u>page</u>
2	<u>CLOSING STATEMENT</u>	
3	HENRY NOLDEN	53
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

P R O C E E D I N G S

(8:10 p.m.)

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I'll be chairing the meeting at this time and I'd like to see that this meeting is started the old traditional way that the Native people have and conduct the meeting by a prayer. I'd like to ask Sara Kunakanna...would everybody stand? (Inupiat) She'd like for everyone to..not only her to be praying, but everyone of us be concentrating on our Maker.

SARA KUNAKANNA: (Inupiat)

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Our guests are from the State and Federal Government tonight and on behalf of the village of Nuiqsut, I welcome you and at this time I will turn the floor over to the chairman.

HENRY NOLDEN, Chairman: Good evening. I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Henry Nolden. I guess you can call me the Chairman of this group. I'd like to introduce, first, all the panel and also, the guests that we brought along with us. Right here on my left is Fran Ullmer, representing the Governor's Office. She's also the chairman of the Coastal Policy Committee. Next to Fran is David Page of the Department of the Interior in Washington. He's in the energy and minerals field. Next to David is Tom Cook, representing the State of Alaska, the Department of Natural Resources. Next to Tom is Bob Brock of the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage. Next to Bob is Hoyle Hamilton, State of Alaska, Oil and Gas Commission. You probably wonder who I represent. Well, I'm from the Department



1 of the Interior in Washington, D.C. and I also work for the  
2 Bureau of Land Management. Now, I'd like to introduce..or  
3 have these people behind me introduce themselves so that you  
4 know who they are.

5 BOB GOFF: I'm Bob Goff or the U.S. Geological Survey,  
6 Anchorage, Alaska.

7 DON HENNIGER: I'm Don Henniger with the Alaska OCS office  
8 in Anchorage.

9 BILL VAN DYKE: Bill Van Dyke, State of Alaska, Department  
10 of Natural Resources.

11 RICH CARROLL: I'm Rich Carroll with the OCS office in  
12 Anchorage.

13 REED BOHNE: I'm Reed Bohne with the National Oceanic  
14 and Atmospheric Administration in Washington.

15 PAM ROGERS: Pam Rogers with the Department of Natural  
16 Resources, Anchorage.

17 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman?

18 CHAIRMAN: Yes?

19 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: From the audience, they would like to  
20 know exactly in his own language. He doesn't understand English,  
21 exactly what your positions are and where?

22 CHAIRMAN: All right. We will have Emily explain that.

23 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Emily. I will make an  
25 introductory statement in English and Emily will translate

1 in Inupiat so all can understand. We have come to the North  
2 Slope to hear what you people have to say about the proposed  
3 sale in the Beaufort Sea and the EIS which the BLM and the  
4 State of Alaska have prepared.

5 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

6 CHAIRMAN: No decision, no decision has been made yet  
7 about whether the State and the Federal Government will go  
8 ahead and have this sale.

9 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

10 CHAIRMAN: You can have a part in making that decision  
11 by testifying here today; because we will make sure that any  
12 of this information that you give us gets to the Governor and  
13 to the Secretary of the Interior before they make up their  
14 minds as to what to do.

15 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

16 CHAIRMAN: Here is how we will hold these hearings. Anyone  
17 of you who would like to testify can. You can testify either  
18 in English or in Inupiat. Both are okay.

19 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

20 CHAIRMAN: If you testify in English, please give us your  
21 name first and spell it. Everything you say will go directly  
22 into the record.

23 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat) Last name spelled out?

24 CHAIRMAN: Last name, unless you know the people.

25 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

1        CHAIRMAN: If you testify in Inupiat, everything you say  
2 will still go into the record but it will take some extra work.  
3 Here is how we will take that testimony. You will get up and  
4 tell us your name, then you will say what you have to, in Inupiat.  
5 We will not interrupt you while you are talking. We will record  
6 what you say on tape. After you finish talking, our translator,  
7 Emily, will get up and summarize what you have said in English.  
8 This is just so that we know what you are saying.

9        INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

10       CHAIRMAN: After we go back to Anchorage, we will have  
11 a translator listen to the tapes, your recording, then the  
12 translator will put all your words into English and everything  
13 you have told us will be in the record.

14       INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

15       CHAIRMAN: Your testimony here tonight is very important  
16 to us. It will help us improve the Environmental Impact Statement  
17 and it will help us bring your information, and your opinions,  
18 to the decision makers for this proposed lease sale. It will  
19 help us decide what to do in the Beaufort Sea.

20       INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

21       CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I think now, I would like to ask  
22 for the first person to testify and I was told that Thomas  
23 would like to testify first.

24       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, panel members  
25 on the Board, my name is Thomas Napageak. I am the Mayor of

1 Nuiqsut. I was born here in the Arctic Slope and I have traveled  
2 throughout this region. Because of my lifelong experience,  
3 I know about our environment and the wildlife population. I  
4 am fortunate to have learned from my ancestors, their knowledge,  
5 which they gained from thousands of years of living in our  
6 Arctic homeland. Once again, I welcome you to Nuiqsut and  
7 I hope the testimony and evidence presented at this hearing  
8 will be received, evaluated and utilized to make a decision  
9 that respects our Inupiat culture. I hope that oil companies  
10 are not again creating an energy crisis to force a decision  
11 to hold this sale. I remember very well the energy independence  
12 this country was promised if we developed Prudhoe Bay. Now,  
13 I understand the same people are proposing to export our pet-  
14 roleum to Japan. Although our experience with oil development  
15 is rather short, we have learned their tactics. I hope political  
16 pressure will not lead that destroys the objective of the National  
17 Environmental Policy Act. At great expense to ourselves,  
18 we gave Prudhoe Bay to the Nation. Prudhoe Bay, which once  
19 was our hunting grounds and caribou calving grounds is lost  
20 to us and the caribou. It was only until a year ago that we  
21 were able to begin buying fuel from Prudhoe Bay. Twice we  
22 faced serious fuel shortage but we could not get fuel from  
23 Prudhoe Bay. Although we are happy to be able to buy fuel  
24 from Prudhoe Bay now, we are aware that fuel was not sold to  
25 us until it was advantageous to the oil companies to improve

1 their relationship with us; and perhaps, get our support for  
2 a Beaufort Sea lease sale. Above all, our priority is to pro-  
3 tect our environment. The land from the Brooks Range to the  
4 edge of the shorefast sea ice is most sacred to the Inupiat.  
5 It provides us with nourishment for our bodies and culture.  
6 We oppose any development that will destroy our land and wildlife  
7 resources. We oppose any activity that will destroy our sub-  
8 sistence culture, which has been the strength of the Inupiat.  
9 We know that the United States is willing to protect the three  
10 inch Snail Darter in Tennessee. We hope that the United States  
11 will be willing to protect the Bowhead Whales. We hope that  
12 the United States will be willing to protect the Inupiat culture.  
13 The Inupiat culture is dependent on the environment and the  
14 wildlife. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement states  
15 that all blocks of the Beaufort oil lease sale, in the Beaufort  
16 Sea pose pollution risk to the environment. The Statement  
17 acknowledges that oil spills will probably occur and cause  
18 environmental impacts. The Inupiat cannot afford to take that  
19 chance. We are already under great stress as a result of our  
20 caribou shortage and the Bowhead Whale quota which is affecting  
21 our subsistence culture. We know that the technology has not  
22 been developed to clean oil spills under the ice. As I understand,  
23 the oil spill in the sea ice from an ice breaker last year  
24 can't even be located by scientists or technicians, even to  
25 clean it up. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement makes

1 assumptions that we are moving away from our subsistence into  
2 a cash economy. That part, I would like to make another statement  
3 here. I don't think a lot of our Native people here realize  
4 what that Draft Statement really says. Now, I would like to  
5 go into my own tongue and make a few statements on the IES.

6 (Inupiat)

7 And back to my testimony. I would like to point out to you  
8 that maybe that is the desire of the Government, but it is  
9 not ours. We, here in Nuiqsut, by our own personal choice,  
10 left homes and jobs in Barrow to return to our ancestral lands  
11 to live in tents like our grandparents and to live off the  
12 land. We re-established the area which has always been used  
13 by our people. The land and coastal region provides us with  
14 subsistence, which is the foundation of our culture. We cannot  
15 live without our Native food, nor would we want to if we could.  
16 Your Environmental Impact Statement has many errors. Even  
17 about our subsistence use areas. And, Mr. Chairman, I would  
18 like to make presentation to the panel of the draft cultural  
19 views that was put together by the Native people in Nuiqsut,  
20 along with North Slope Borough Government, but doesn't show  
21 in your maps that were sent to the village.

22 (Inupiat)

23 Now, back to my testimony again. May I suggest that you take  
24 the time and review our Traditional Land Use Inventory and  
25 our Nuiqsut Culture Plan. If you hope to make the right decision,

1 you must have the correct information and take into consideration  
2 the body of knowledge we have about our environment. Until  
3 the State of Alaska and the Federal Government can prove without  
4 question that oil exploration and development can occur in  
5 the Beaufort Sea ice without an impact to our environment,  
6 I oppose the Beaufort Sea lease sale. Until the State of Alaska  
7 and the Federal Government can prove to our, to my satisfaction,  
8 that oil activities will not impact on our subsistence culture,  
9 I remain opposed to the lease sale. I have a responsibility  
10 to my land, my ancestors and my children and their children,  
11 to protect the environment which gave birth to the Inupiat  
12 culture. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Thomas. Would you like to leave  
14 this with us or..?

15 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yes, you can have that.

16 (The above mentioned document was given to the Chairman. Reporter  
17 did not receive a copy. Copy of written Statement, see Attachment)

18 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

19 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

20 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat) Thomas, until the United States  
21 Government can prove to my satisfaction that oil activities  
22 will not impact our subsistence culture?

23 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

24 (APPLAUSE)

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Thomas. Excellent statement.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I would like to, Mr. Chairman, if it's

1 all right with you, uh, we've got a man here that has to go  
2 to work at nine o'clock. He's got a written testimony that  
3 he wants me to read.

4 CHAIRMAN: Can we have his name?

5 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Wilber Atuananuag, Sr. of Nuiqsut, Alaska.  
6 Born at Colville River Delta. I, Wilber, have been fishing  
7 ever since I could remember. I believe the white fish here  
8 are not as many as used to be. Ever since the oil companies  
9 started drilling, I believe there's not much white fish since  
10 they have started drilling at Flaxman Island. I think since  
11 the oil companies, we start to have less animals such as ducks,  
12 seals, fish of all kinds. Also, in the fish, the Wildlife put  
13 tags on are not good to eat. For when they put the tags on  
14 the fish near the tail, these fish with tags, most of them  
15 always have pus on them. Also, traveling through dog sled  
16 and snow machine, I have seen copper wires which were put out  
17 by surveyors are damaging our animals. I have traveled from  
18 here down near Wainwright by dog sled and snowmachines. Through  
19 this area, all the oil camps that I have went through have  
20 drums that drains oil and prestone to the ground. Never clean  
21 the area that they leave behind. If they should start drilling  
22 on any part of the land or the sea, my wish is that they clean  
23 the areas first before they do anymore drilling. Signed,  
24 Wilber Atuananuag.

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Would you like to read that in



1 Inupiat or should Emily?

2 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yeah, I will read it.

3 CHAIRMAN: Okay.

4 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Wilber.

7 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go through  
8 my testimony briefly. Since this was a rough job, I left out  
9 a few items that I want to discuss. Like on our fuel. Our  
10 fuel cost here in our village. I would like to make it be  
11 known to our State and Federal Governments of how high our  
12 fuel costs us here at Nuiqsut. Sixty miles away from Prudhoe  
13 Bay, the biggest oil pool in the United States, in the State  
14 of Alaska. Wintertime, during winter months, my home uses  
15 ten gallons to be on the seventy degree temperature, livable  
16 inside. Ten gallons at nineteen dollars and eighty cents  
17 (\$19.80) for the ten gallons. Or two hundred and nineteen  
18 dollars (\$219.00) for a drum. And I don't very seldom make  
19 any money..I don't get compensated to be a mayor. I don't  
20 make a red penny out of being a mayor or a public servant in  
21 the community. I have to do it in anyway I have, to come up  
22 with that nineteen dollars and eighty cents (\$19.80) every  
23 day. And I'm only sixty miles away from it. I'm pretty sure  
24 there are people that would like to make comments on the price  
25 of the fuel that we do burn.

(Inupiat)

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, again, Thomas. Thomas, perhaps I'll ask you, uh, would you like one of us to explain this map to everyone?

(Map referred to is one taped up before the audience.)

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yes. I would like for you to go ahead and make a presentation on the proposed area of the Beaufort Sea sale before we open the floor.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you. I'll have Mr. Tom Cook, State of Alaska, describe the map in English and perhaps you can translate for us, please.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

TOM COOK: Can everyone see it from where you are sitting?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

TOM COOK: Let's take it this way. Is this better or are we still going to have a problem?

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Right there, you're going to be blocking our good view.

(Laughter)

TOM COOK: This map shows our proposed sale area in the Beaufort Sea. Emily, are you going to translate?

INTERPRETER: Yeah.

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

TOM COOK: The area shown in color is the area proposed,  
or being considered for the--

THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

1        TOM COOK: The blue area represents the land owned by  
2 the State.

3        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

4        TOM COOK: The yellow area indicates lands owned by the  
5 Federal Government.

6        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

7        TOM COOK: The red areas here, here, and inside the Barrier  
8 Islands represent lands which are undecided as to ownership.

9        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

10       TOM COOK: The Barrier Islands are inside this blue area  
11 here.

12       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

13       TOM COOK: Reindeer Island is right here, Prudhoe here,  
14 Flaxman Island here.

15       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

16       TOM COOK: It is because of this mixture of ownership  
17 and question of ownership that State and Federal Governments  
18 are coordinating the joint sale.

19       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

20       TOM COOK: The original area that was considered over  
21 a year ago, included the area west to the Colville River, shown  
22 here as not colored. Because of comments submitted earlier  
23 on that call for nominations, or that call area, the area of  
24 the Simpson Lagoon has already been deleted from consideration.  
25 This area from here to here.

1        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

2        TOM COOK: Excuse me a moment, Thomas. The village of  
3 Nuiqsut would actually be off of the map, to the west, as it's  
4 shown here.

5        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

6        TOM COOK: The area then considered for lease is considerably  
7 eastward.

8        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

9        TOM COOK: Thank you, Thomas.

10       CHAIRMAN: Can I ask you, Thomas, if there is anyone else  
11 that you know that would like to testify at this time?

12       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yes. Sarah Kunakanna has some testimony.  
13 I think she would like to make her speech in her own Native  
14 Language. (Inupiat)

15       SARAH KUNAKANNA: (Inupiat)

16       THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Okay. She wants me to go ahead and  
17 read her testimony and she would also like to make her own  
18 statement in her own language. My name is Sarah Kunakanna  
19 and I have lived in this area since 1921. Our family stayed  
20 at Prudhoe Bay until late 1930's. Our old sod house is still  
21 standing today. When I visited last summer, I saw the pingos  
22 we used for duck blinds was a burning pit. Our place is a  
23 barge landing place instead of a fishing camp site. I guess  
24 people that are aware of Prudhoe Bay know that old shack on  
25 the east dock. That's where her house is still in position.

1 That's the one she's talking about. There are a lot of old  
2 sites, camping sites, fishing sites along the coast line. They  
3 are there and are being threatened by development. I remember  
4 back in 1930's when Taapak caught a whale on Cross Island while  
5 we were there. My father used to go whaling to Cross Island  
6 in late summer. We also hunted seals, ugruks, after whaling.  
7 The whales travel very close to these Barrier Islands in the  
8 summer. We fish for ikalukpik from the ocean and the Sagavanir-  
9 tuug River. We hook for graylings and net for anaaglik in  
10 the summer. We get all kinds of white fish by seining in  
11 the channels. The Savviugvik River is also abundant for grayling.  
12 In the winter we trapped for white fox and hunted polar bear  
13 near, on the Barrier Islands. The Barrier Islands carry the  
14 same birds, mammals and fish. It is one..I can't make out  
15 what that word is. What you do to one area will affect the  
16 other areas. The ducks and the geese use the Barrier Islands  
17 as their home. They nest in June on the sand spits. The pin-  
18 tails on the islands in July. On the islands in July. There  
19 are thousands of them that would be endangered because of this  
20 sale. We also depend on squirrels and ptarmigan on the islands.  
21 I also remember the time we were crossing the channel to go  
22 mainland, when we came across an open wide lead. The ice  
23 went over the islands because of the south wind. The ice can  
24 go over the Barrier Islands. I've also watched such ice move-  
25 ment when Paul Pasuanna was taken adrift from the Barrier Islands.

1 These are some things that should be known. In the summertime,  
2 it is very important to know that animals are valuable. We  
3 know that ikalukpik is the main fish. The other species include  
4 qaaktaq, ikalusaag, pikuktuuq..and there's a lot of names here  
5 that I won't read. I'll bypass them to, uh, make her own state-  
6 ment. There are a number of seals, spotted seals that are  
7 very valuable. Also, the Beluga and the Bowhead Whales. The  
8 polar bear is also abundant on the ice. The migratory ducks,  
9 different pintails use this area for nesting and moulting.  
10 The different species of shore birds are by the thousands when  
11 they come to the islands. The caribou are abundant in the  
12 summertime on the shoreline. These are the type of animals  
13 and fish that are present on the lease sale area. If a drilling  
14 rig is to go up near the Barrier Islands, these animals and  
15 fish are in great danger of being destroyed. The drill rig  
16 might be destroyed from ice movements. I know the ways of  
17 nature and what is on these islands. I have used it as my  
18 hunting place. I know the area of the Kuukpik River where  
19 I lived, when I lived on the foothills and the mountains looking  
20 for game. Knowing this area and having worked with the first  
21 oil companies here, who have always stated they would do a  
22 good clean job and will say that they will not affect fish  
23 and wildlife, I know that the drill rig will affect what is  
24 presently here. I also know that they do directional drilling  
25 and this will happen. I do not want to see any drill rigs

1 off shore because of too much risk involved. I would like  
2 to see my children and relatives go back to..another Eskimo  
3 word there, at Prudhoe Bay. I want this land to belong to  
4 my children who will be here for generation after generation.  
5 I want something in return for this loss of fishing and historic  
6 camp site. I still wait for the day when the oil companies  
7 will give me something in return. That's for her old place  
8 in Prudhoe Bay which is used for east dock. Signed by Sarah  
9 Kunakanna.

10 (For review of Statement, see Attachment)

11 CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 SARAH KUNAKANNA: (Inupiat)

13 CHAIRMAN: Sarah, thank you very much. Do we have anyone  
14 else that would like to speak at this time?

15 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

16 CHAIRMAN: We have a statement here from Bessie Ericklook.  
17 Emily will read it into the record for us.

18 INTERPRETER: Statement by Bessie Ericklook. My name is  
19 Bessie Ericklook and I have lived in this area all my life.  
20 As a young girl at Cross Island, I have seen how a sod house  
21 was covered by a pressure ridge in the wintertime. The wind  
22 was so strong that it covered one end of this island. The  
23 ice is very dangerous. The shore edge is very dangerous and  
24 unpredictable in October and November. During one December  
25 on one of the islands, another sod house was completely covered

1 by pressure ridge. The ice had cracked and the ice was turbulent  
2 and it took two of Tookak's kids. Another movement and his  
3 wife was taken away. You cannot talk of the ice so easily.  
4 You cannot control nature, the wind. The wind is the greatest  
5 factor. Here is an example of a picture when the Kuukpik River  
6 breakup. We went seal hunting during May and in June, before  
7 breakup, we had to land again. The islands are used heavily  
8 for nesting and moulting ducks, geese and pintails. The islands  
9 are important and have historical and cultural significance.  
10 There are whale bones and old ruins at Pingkok Island. The  
11 lands and its wildlife, fish, have changed today. For example,  
12 Putu used to have a free flowing channel. Now, last year,  
13 it had to be physically channeled. Two years ago, my brother  
14 Paul went to fish at Itkillikpaat where he ordinarily fished.  
15 He came back with no fish. We used to catch fish anytime we  
16 put a hook in. The Itkillik River is now rusty colored. There  
17 are even a bridge at Puviksuk. This river used to be glassy  
18 clear, as I have known it. These are the effects of past activity.  
19 Another example are the destruction of our cellars at Uliktuk.  
20 They have been bulldozed and covered over by past activity.  
21 Trapping was abundant east of here. Now, we don't go over  
22 because of the oil field. Just recently, it is known that  
23 the foxes are very dirty, discolored and rabid in that area.  
24 Trapping is done elsewhere. We used to see grizzly bears around.  
25 Now, they are not around. Where's the caribou now? One summer



1 when we used to walk miles looking for caribou, we came across  
2 two dead caribou for unknown reasons. The animals have faced  
3 a change. We have faced a change since activity began. If  
4 there is to be further activity, the fish and the sea mammals  
5 will suffer and we will suffer too. We depend on the fish,  
6 wildlife and the birds, still, today. Oil development poses  
7 a threat to our lifestyle.

8 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Bessie.

10 (Statement and photograph, see Attachment.)

11 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Mr. Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN: Yes Sir?

13 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

14 (APPLAUSE)

15 INTERPRETER: They got a whale in Barrow.

16 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Now, they are happy because they're  
17 going to have their muktuk. I'd like to make some comments  
18 on your Environmental Impact Statement, Mr. Chairman. If it's  
19 all right with you?

20 CHAIRMAN: Go right ahead.

21 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat) The EIS points out that the  
22 estimate is that there is a fifty per cent chance of finding  
23 oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea. It also points out that the  
24 existing drilling methods, only thirty-five per cent of the  
25 oil might be recovered if they do find oil. Wouldn't it be

1 better if they should delay? Because it plainly tells in your  
2 EIS that there's fifty-fifty chance of finding oil to start  
3 with and now the activity, in the meantime, will be destroying  
4 our subsistence way of living. Our fish, our whales are going  
5 to be affected by all the activity and the chances are fifty  
6 per cent. And if you do find oil, there's only thirty-five  
7 per cent of that oil that's going to be pulled out of there.  
8 It's not even half of what you found. It's stated on your  
9 IES (sic) Statement. I'd like to ask that question. Wouldn't it  
10 be better if we delay?

11 CHAIRMAN: Thomas, that's a good question. The reason  
12 for the Environmental Impact Statement was to bring out these  
13 kinds of things so that the public can comment and also to  
14 bring those facts to the Secretary of the Interior and to the  
15 Governor. And we will do that. That quuestion you asked,  
16 I can't answer that. But I will pass it on. Would you like  
17 to comment on that Tom? From the Governor's side?

18 TOM COOK: No, I don't believe so.

19 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat) On page 50 on your IES. Also,  
20 liability funds mentioned for oil spills. And all through  
21 the paragraph, there was nothing for discussing on problems  
22 for subsistence hunting. If a oil spill should occur, what  
23 happen to the subsistence hunter? That's my question.

24 (Inupiat)

25 My question is, what happens to the subsistence hunter? The

1 guy that only depends on fish, seals, whales and ducks? The  
2 reason I'm asking this question is, we have about seven families  
3 that are disabled. Can't go out and get jobs because of doctor's  
4 orders and they're living on pensions which is not even enough  
5 to pay for their fuel costs. What happens? The only dependable  
6 thing for him is subsistence way of living. What will happen  
7 to him. We know if there is a spill, it's going to be affecting  
8 him very hard. Is he going to be compensated in any way?

9 CHAIRMAN: We will consider that.

10 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: You know, Mr. Chairman, it wasn't very  
11 easy for me, and I'm not getting compensated for anything, to  
12 roughly go through that Environment Statement, preparing for  
13 this hearing. There are questions that I would like to have  
14 answered. I don't seem to be getting anywhere.

15 CHAIRMAN: We can get you answers. Do you have this written  
16 down?

17 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Pardon?

18 CHAIRMAN: Do you have it written down?

19 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I have notations. That's all I got.

20 CHAIRMAN: Okay. We can make notes and I can get back to  
21 you with that information, if you'd like.

22 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yes. I can make a good follow up with  
23 the Impact Statement. If it would be accepted and uh, I could  
24 report, give it to the village on these questions that I have  
25 in mind. On these notations on the Environmental Impact Statement.

1        CHAIRMAN: Sure, we can respond to that.

2        THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat) I have with me on this Environ-  
3 mental Impact Statement, statements this thick on questions  
4 which I know will be heard in our cultural way of living. It  
5 might be good for me to sit down and put them all in writing.

6        CHAIRMAN: All right. I think that would be very helpful  
7 and we will respond to you then.

8        BESSIE ERICKLOOK: (Inupiat)

9                                (APPLAUSE)

10       INTERPRETER: She was talking on her testimony. The one  
11 that I translated. She wanted to say her own little piece in  
12 there.

13       CHAIRMAN: So, it's a repeat?

14       INTERPRETER: Yeah, it's a repeat.

15       ROSA KAIGELAK: My name is Rosa Kaigelak, K-A-I-G-E-L-A-K.  
16 I'd like to make a statement that I've noticed. I have been  
17 a health aid for over a year now in Nuiqsut. And it is a tough  
18 job and I know. And I have found out in one year, that on our  
19 little children and the older people, their hemoglobin has dropped  
20 way down. Some of the little children have to have two doses  
21 of iron. And it's really hard. And it's because we are so short  
22 on our caribou and all the animals are scarce. Since they have  
23 started drilling, there has been a lot of damage to our rivers,  
24 our fish, our caribou and everything else. Like I saw in pictures  
25 of Chandler Lake. That was a horrible picture I saw. That lake

1 is a seven foot lake. Just last year those drillers went up  
2 there and what they did was blasted in that lake and in the pictures  
3 you could see dead fish all over that lake and all this garbage  
4 they had floating. That's where my Grandpa is buried too. It's  
5 terrible what oil companies are doing to our land. Like the  
6 lady said, what would the statement say in the 48 if us Eskimos  
7 would go down there and try to take over what they have. Like  
8 trying to get their land and try to make traps or something.  
9 Wouldn't they go against it? Wouldn't they go against us? You..  
10 the drillers are doing too much to our land and I don't like  
11 to see our kids having to live on irons and vitamins that I  
12 never know about. I had no problems when I grew up. I had  
13 a little cold, but no viruses. No ear infections, no strepp  
14 throats and all that. That has been done because the damage  
15 they did to our caribou and all the subsistence here. What  
16 I'd like to recommend is, I hope they never go drilling on that  
17 Beaufort Sea. Thank you.

18 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Rosa. I'd like to ask  
21 for a ten minute recess at this time, for all of us.

22 (Hearing recessed at 10:00 p.m. and reconvened at 10:25 p.m.)

23 CHAIRMAN: We have a statement here, we have a statement  
24 from Samuel Kunakanna. Samuel, could we ask you to read this?

25 (Statement read in Inupiat by his wife.)

1        INTERPRETER: Okay. She read that Statement that they  
2 give to you. That was the one that she read. And then she  
3 added, in her statement by herself, that we do not want this  
4 lease sale at all. Life is hard here and she says she has no  
5 job and the money's hard to come by when you have to distribute  
6 it for gas and live here with no job. This winter, ten gallons  
7 gas was over twenty dollars. It was twenty dollars and fifteen  
8 cents (\$20.15) for ten gallons. If I don't have money for gas,  
9 then I go after driftwood. Start looking around, scrounging  
10 around for wood around so that I can have heat in my house.  
11 I cut the wood, especially when she is by herself. Sometimes  
12 it is frustrating for her, at times, when there is no money  
13 and gas is so expensive. And it is also frustrating to see  
14 the lights that are visible at Prudhoe Bay, and my house is  
15 cold. When I first arrived here, we did not have anything.  
16 Wood was hard to come by. There was no flooring and it was  
17 on the hard ground that they have tents in. They have lived  
18 rough lives here and they have lived through it. They were  
19 promised to get help but there was no help. That came later,  
20 after we settled here. We lived in tents. There was something  
21 that was promised to them but these promises did not come by  
22 so they have to make it on their own. Life is getting easier  
23 now than it should be. Gas is extremely too high here and she  
24 thank those who are able to help by their languages; she thankful  
25 for those who are able to help here in any way possible.

1        CHAIRMAN: That's uh, that's Sarah?

2        INTERPRETER: Sarah Kunakanna.

3        CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Sarah, for the additional  
4 statement. Is there anyone else, Walt, that..Thomas, that's--

5        TRISA HOPSON: Mr. Chairman, my name is Trisa Hopson and  
6 my statement is, my concerns for help of the Inupiat people.  
7 Hospitals were built on the North Slope for the benefit of the  
8 Inupiat people by the Federal Government. We struggled through  
9 the first contact with the white man, now we strive to be healthy.  
10 Our nutrition and diet is dependent on the fish, mammals, birds  
11 and caribou that are to be found along the coast and inland.  
12 Our children depend, and will depend on the fish of the old  
13 people for many years. Our Inupiat way of life is centered  
14 around sharing what food is available. We also exchange fish  
15 with other villages of the North Slope so that, in return, they  
16 may send us what they have that we don't have. The stores supplies  
17 only supplement food like milk for the babies. The main plane  
18 that carries our supplements does not come in for weeks in the  
19 wintertime when the weather is bad. Now our Governments are  
20 wanting to put up oil rigs where the very heart of our fish,  
21 mammals, birds and caribou are located. Very seriously, our  
22 food, our nutrition and diet will be cut off because of this  
23 proposed activity. If our food service is in danger, then our  
24 culture and lifestyle is in danger too. We will still struggle  
25 to survive for generations to come. Also, something I'd like

1 to add in Inupiat.

2 CHAIRMAN: Fine.

3 TRISA HOPSON: (Inupiat) how many foot of ice? They can  
4 fish under the ice sometimes in the wintertime when the game  
5 is hard to come by. (Inupiat) There's always fish under the  
6 water, under the ice. (Inupiat) They can't buy it. (Inupiat)  
7 We don't want that. (Inupiat) What good are the people when  
8 their independence is taken away from them? (Inupiat)

9 (APPLAUSE)

10 HARRIET KASAK: (Inupiat)

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 INTERPRETER: Her name is Harriet Kasak, K-A-S-A-K. She's  
13 from Barrow and she has stated that the Mayor does not want  
14 them to give up their, give up their, uh, for lease sale. And  
15 she's said that she is opposing the lease sale. She had lived  
16 here in this area for thirty..until she was thirty years old.  
17 She had five children. Six children. And then her husband  
18 died. That was when she lived in Barrow. And she lived a rough  
19 life here. She had lived by herself with her children at Barrow.  
20 And she says that you white people live easy life and try to  
21 give us a lot to rule by. She says she is poor. She lives  
22 on only two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) a month pension.  
23 And this is what she has to live on. Meat is expensive at Barrow.  
24 Sometimes when she buy meat, it is over ten dollars (\$10.00).  
25 So she is depending upon subsistence living. When she watch



1 TV, she watch the animals, or these caribous being lassoed  
2 and put in corrals. And they put harness on them and then she  
3 has seen them put tags in their ears. And this is the way you  
4 want..and this is the way that you handle things. She says  
5 that if we suffer, you do not care about us. So, she is opposing  
6 the lease sale.

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Who's this Gentleman, here?

8 INTERPRETER: Samuel Kunakanna.

9 SAMUEL KUNAKANNA: (Inupiat)

10 INTERPRETER: His name is Samuel Kunakanna. He says he  
11 always has listened and talked about things and the way he observed  
12 it, that Inupiat or Eskimo living is not quite known to you.  
13 This he sees. And he says that he has seen white people only  
14 concerned about money. And that's what it is. You get rich,  
15 become millionaires, lots of it and are able to live easily.  
16 In Inupiat way of life, subsistence is richly valued to us,  
17 like millionaire to us. Meat on table, our bodies get strong.  
18 We value those things. Nutrition is important but we live on  
19 subsistence animals and we hear that these animals will not  
20 be destroyed but it is not so. Ice is thick, water is swift.  
21 If the drill rigs are put on posted..put on concrete or put  
22 on foundations, he thinks that the ice we get will destroy it.  
23 We will be in danger. He's using an example that the ship travels  
24 and gets destroyed. The ice can destroy it. If the rigs are  
25 put in deep water, it is in danger. All of us are opposed to

1 lease sale.

2 CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Samuel.

3 NANNY WOODS: (Inupiat) My name is Woods. (Inupiat)

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 INTERPRETER: Her name is Nanny Woods. W-O-O-D-S. She  
6 had lived here in Nuiqsut in 1921. She had traveled east to  
7 Cross Island and that's where they got a whale. There was lots  
8 of people down in that area. Then they got separated. She  
9 traveled separately from her parents. She traveled east towards  
10 Bar Island. She was with her husband, separated from her parents  
11 and we lived on subsistence. Hunting caribou, fish whatever  
12 is on island. Then on up to river, Sag River. Used to be full  
13 of fish and all the rivers were full of fish. And she does  
14 not know if there are fish anymore in these rivers. This is  
15 how we traveled in our..at that time. She says she's going  
16 to be one of the people that's opposing to lease sale. She  
17 had observed, seen how life is in this area, where the area  
18 is in the lease sale. There were lots of caribou that we hardly  
19 see anymore. There's little bit of fish around here. And the  
20 fish come from ocean in the fall, travel up river, then in spring-  
21 time goes out. But she thinks that she hardly see caribou any-  
22 more. Life is getting hard and she can barely..she is one of  
23 the elders, elders here at Nuiqsut.

24 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Nanny.

25 RUTH NUKAPIGAK: (Inupiat)

1        INTERPRETER: Her name is Ruth Nukapigak, N-U-K-A-P-I-G-A-K.  
2        She says she's going to give her testimony in Inupiat because she  
3        says she likes to talk whenever there's a meeting, give her  
4        opinions. In 1925, she was born. She was born in this area  
5        until she was able to hunt for herself. She had traveled by  
6        dog team sled and there were lots of people here at the time  
7        and then they start moving to Kaktovik and to Barrow because  
8        of poverty. There was no stores around here. It was hard to  
9        live so then people start moving out from this area. She has  
10       seen it. Seal oil was distributed accordingly. There were  
11       no white people here then. Our forefathers lived here and I  
12       learned how they had lived in this area. I know how to hunt.  
13       Even though the United States is our backbone, there was nobody  
14       to help us then. At the time, Nanny and her husband were left  
15       here. In 1947 she went to Barrow because her mother was sick.  
16       She had to live by the doctors. Then she got married and had  
17       children and she wanted education for her children. That's  
18       why they stayed on in Barrow. until just recently, then they  
19       moved back to Nuiqsut. Her children are grown now and they  
20       aren't here. Her husband and her love to go hunting and then  
21       they fish, they live on land. She had fished before, until  
22       when they first moved here, back to Nuiqsut, she had seen sickly  
23       fish. Sickly. She had seen them for the first time. She said,  
24       I had never seen this before in the rivers. The rivers are  
25       unclean, rusty colored. And the water is no good to drink.

1 She said, she and her husband had talked about this. And oil  
2 companies are..they want to drill and they keep coming back  
3 over here to get permission from these people to drill. Meeting  
4 after meeting. She had seen birds, ducks, seals, fish were  
5 plentiful. And the fish go up river from the ocean. Why do  
6 they want to drill in this proposed lease sale? She said these  
7 peoples have lived the hardest life than anyone else. Gas is  
8 expensive and severe winters. This village that they live  
9 in, very hard to live in. In 1973, when they first came here  
10 to Nuiqsut, they went down further by snowmachine and they saw  
11 oil rigs. And here they were hiding from these people and they  
12 were drilling. Nothing was known to these people. To the Inupiat  
13 people. They still want to drill. Oil companies has lied to  
14 us and we have lived with these. Meetings after meetings. And  
15 the meetings, when they have given testimony after testimony  
16 and the Barrow people have not heard about these meetings. In  
17 these islands, the Inupiat people have lived. The oil does  
18 not submerge on water. It stays on surface. The oil will float  
19 and it will kill our animals, kill our mammals, seals, whales,  
20 whatever live in ocean.

21 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Ruth.

22 (APPLAUSE)

23 CHAIRMAN: Thomas, did you want to say...?

24 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: I've got a few comments here on the  
25 Environmental Impact Statement. I would like to make a comment

1 on one thing that's here on page 117. As I earlier indicated,  
2 there's a lot of errors on this Statement. The Statement says  
3 that erosion of subsistence will concurrently erode language  
4 and knowledge, making it unlikely that future generations will  
5 be effective subsistence hunters. Urbanization, which is actively  
6 being preserved by the Inupiat is bringing about the inevitable  
7 and accelarating erosion of subsistence living. An integral  
8 part of traditional subsistence living is that it is dynamically  
9 changing in the direction of urban values and will continue  
10 to do so regardless of OCS development. I find that, as I read  
11 it, a very poor part of the Impact Statement there. I'm going  
12 to translate to the people as I go along.

13 (Inupiat)

14 And as I go further along, on page 162. Adequate technology,  
15 it says here, take care of problems of soil sinking from permafrost.  
16 I'd like to know the answer on that one because the testimonies  
17 that were given earlier. Due to the exploration activities  
18 on FDRA and the State lands, a lot of barrels being left behind,  
19 left open. All the oil draining from the tanks, just smearing  
20 up the land and they've got technology. Why don't they take  
21 care of this?

22 (Inupiat)

23 And still furthermore, as we all know, that back to about 1971  
24 and '72 when, I think it was the Fish and Game Department..I'm  
25 a subsistence hunter to start with. I've always shot a lot

1 of polar bears in my lifetime and then Federal and State agencies  
2 came in and told me that I can't even sell the hides anymore  
3 because polar bears were an endangered species. Now, here is  
4 Environmental Impact Statement that says that they know that  
5 the sale area is the place where all the denning takes place  
6 of polar bears. They also said that it is probable that the  
7 polar bear population using the area affected by the proposal  
8 will be reduced by an unknown amount. Sale will reduce the  
9 critical denning habitat. Now, why should the Federal and State  
10 Government go ahead and have this sale if they're going to be  
11 still endangering the polar bear population? When they have  
12 stopped the Native people from taking it and selling the hide  
13 and making our living with it?

14 (Inupiat)

15 I've got a lot more here but time is flying and I will make  
16 sure that I put all my statements down on paper and send them  
17 to the Department. But I've got some problems that I think  
18 I should make a presentation at this time to the panel here.  
19 I wonder why the Federal and State Government, when they want  
20 something, come out to the villages and have hearings? I wonder  
21 if it be possible for our two governments, the Federal and State  
22 Government to come out to our villages and hear our problems  
23 once in awhile? That we live with. For instance, our fuel  
24 problem. Another thing, transportation. I'm going to be talking  
25 about that briefly, but I'm going to make the people aware of

1 what I'm talking about.

2 (Inupiat)

3 In the newspaper article not too long ago, I read, which is  
4 true, that Nuiqsut, the village of Nuiqsut, pays the highest  
5 fuel costs in the Nation. Very unbelievable being only sixty  
6 miles away from the biggest oil pool in the Nation, topping  
7 plant there. And the oil companies, the guy that topped the  
8 field, I had an argument. I guess Steve Burgess can back up  
9 my words. I talked with them, I pled with them to get a lower  
10 price cost than seventy-nine cents (\$.79) a gallon since it's  
11 being pumped out of the ground and topped right there. Why  
12 should I pay seventy-nine cents (\$.79) a gallon? But they told  
13 us, they flatly told us that they didn't have anything to do  
14 with the price of fuel because of the agreement that they had  
15 given, I think it was the Federal Government, wasn't it Steve  
16 Burgess, that told them that this is the price that you'd better  
17 be selling that topped fuel on. Topped at Prudhoe Bay. Isn't  
18 that true, Steve?

19 STEVE BURGESS: Yes.

20 (Inupiat)

21 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: They told us that. I'd like to, I have  
22 verification on that return memo for you. They told me that  
23 the Federal Government set the rates on their fuel. That they  
24 have no other..way of doing it. And transportation, we have  
25 two little stores here in our community. The transportation

1 is so poor. You know that the jets make daily flights to Barrow.  
2 And we get three or four flights a week from Barrow. But the  
3 transportation is so poor that if I make an order of groceries  
4 from Fairbanks, it will take me three weeks to receive it. If  
5 I got anything perishable, it will be rotten by the time they  
6 get here. If I try to utilize Prudhoe Bay airport, I have to  
7 charter flights to shuttle my groceries at twenty-five cents  
8 (\$.25) a pound and these people pay for that. If Federal Govern-  
9 ment and State Government was so concerned, they would come  
10 out here and look at what we have to live with. Set it up,  
11 help us set it up. I have asked the State Government to come  
12 out here and help us set up some things that needs to be set  
13 up as a second class community. Now, I've got this amount of  
14 files for anybody. I've been waiting for about four years from  
15 Community and Regional Affairs. No word. No response.

16 (Inupiat)

17 We're tax payers. The Federal Government and the State takes  
18 out at least, almost half of our paychecks if we're working.  
19 What services do we get? Nothing. Post office, for instance,  
20 our post office is being operated out of a home. Like I said,  
21 we're tax payers and we're trying to fight for our rights to  
22 keep this open so that none of our fish, animals will be en-  
23 dangered. Now, on our workshop at Prudhoe Bay about two months  
24 ago, roughly, I asked a question. Since they were drilling  
25 on artificial pad, gravel pad, how far does the sound on that



1 rig move under ice? Oh, they said, they're studying that.  
2 They told me that they'd give me the information. I've been  
3 waiting for information on that and I haven't heard anything  
4 about it. Now, we're talking about the Beaufort Sea sale. And  
5 I don't even get no answers for the questions that I asked.  
6 These are some of the problems that we live with. I hope, in  
7 the decision making panel, that these will be considered. We're  
8 very concerned. Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Thomas. Is there anyone  
10 else that would like to speak?

11 JIMMY NUKAPIGEAK: Yes.

12 CHAIRMAN: Please rise.

13 JIMMY NUKAPIGEAK: My name is Jimmy Nukapigeak. I'm from  
14 Arctic Slope and I'm going to speak in my own language. (Inupiat)

15 (APPLAUSE)

16 INTERPRETER: His name is Jimmy Nukapigeak and he's from  
17 the Arctic Slope area. And he's talking to the people. He  
18 says as young people, there's been a question, as a young people  
19 do we hunt and he says, yes, we do. We hunt. And he says that  
20 probably none of you have ever hunted when you were young.

21 (This witness is approximately fifteen years of age.)

22 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Jimmy. Is there anyone else?

23 SARAH KUNAKANNA: (Inupiat)

24 INTERPRETER: She said they have lived subsistence living  
25 as their forefathers did also. They traveled with animals.

1 They survived on animals. And she stated that once..the polar  
2 bears, they live on ice, but the females, when they tend to  
3 their young, they don't live on ice. They go towards the land  
4 and the rivers. Go towards the rivers to tend to their young.  
5 The fish travel towards land when there's no ice, when it's  
6 easier. And then they go out to the ocean when it starts freezing  
7 up. And she states that animals know fish go towards ocean  
8 underneath the ice. Then she said that we have children, lots  
9 of them and they are different. They grow up differently. Each  
10 one of them is different. Some go to college and some don't.  
11 Those who go to college know how. This is what she's stating  
12 with her own experience. Older children that she had, they  
13 know how to live in this area and they don't have a hard time.  
14 They have jobs when there's jobs available.

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Sarah. Is there someone else that  
16 would like to speak?

17 MAGGIE KAWALSKY: I have a written statement from my father,  
18 Neil Allen. He wasn't able to attend this public hearing be-  
19 cause of his health. And he says, uh, I cannot stay at the  
20 public hearing because of my health. I think the Government  
21 should cancel this Beaufort Sea sale. I am giving my testimony  
22 even though I am afraid the Government will not listen to it.  
23 I was born July 5, 1905 at Point Hope, Alaska. By 1917, my  
24 family was at Barrow and then we started moving towards Guffen  
25 Point, just beyond Barter Island. I spent about eighteen years

1 in Canada in the MacKenzie River Delta. By 1956, I moved to  
2 Barter Island and lived there until 1968, then moved to Nuiqsut  
3 from this area. I have been here every since. I have many  
4 years experience in hunting and trapping in the seasons every  
5 year in the Beaufort Sea area. He also stated he was in the  
6 area of the Barrier Islands. And he is against the sale because  
7 he knows it will hurt the animals that we highly depend on.  
8 The main reason..he says, I believe the ice movement would push  
9 any kind of uh, construction, uh, of the oil companies..because  
10 the ice movement, he has seen, is so powerful. In 1929 or 1930,  
11 I was living with my brother at Ice Reef. In December, a strong  
12 wind came up and then the weather cleared up and they went over  
13 to Ice Reef after they feel to keep away from ice movement.  
14 And then they saw there, the ice had pushed up on the island  
15 and his brother had a stick that was five and a half feet long  
16 and the ice that was pushed up completely over the island was  
17 that thick. You know, five and a half feet. He know just how  
18 powerful the ice movement can be and he feels that nothing can  
19 stop it. The ice was pushed over, completely over the island.  
20 In those days, the island was about twenty feet high and two  
21 hundred yards wide. He saw how strong the ice movement could  
22 be. And he also stated here that uh, he knows all along the  
23 area of the Beaufort Sea area, the ice movement is very strong.  
24 He opposes the sale very much because of the wildlife that we  
25 depend on. When he as a lot of white man foods, he has a bad

1 case of heartburn. And that heartburn can cure him until he  
2 eats seal oil or whale oil. That's the only thing that can cure  
3 him. He is so concerned because he gets his seal oil and whale  
4 oil each year from Barter Island and the whale migrates in that  
5 area and if anything did happen, if they did spill there..uhm,  
6 it would hurt the Bowhead Whale. They have no way of taking  
7 the oil. It means so much to everybody. Like when he goes  
8 out hunting, he don't go without it. He needs the whale, you  
9 know, the mineral and everything is there that supplies him  
10 for the strength he needs. And I also want to make a small  
11 statement. I was brought up eating my main food and I am deeply  
12 concerned. At Barter Island, they depend so much on the food  
13 there, especially the whales and ducks, everything. If you  
14 take it away from us, I know we'll never survive. It's very  
15 important for us. We can't survive on the store. For one thing,  
16 it's not supplied all the time, and the high cost of the prices,  
17 we can't afford. This winter, fall, my husband and me did a  
18 lot of ice fishing on the mouth of the Okerokovik River down  
19 here and we uh, we got some fish but they were not running too  
20 good and a lot of the fish we found had tags on them and they  
21 were tagged near the tail and some in the stomach area and there  
22 was a fluid like. And we sell all of our fish all along the  
23 coast of North Slope and feeding everybody fish. You know,  
24 everybody's eating it and in the Impact Statement there, I read  
25 some fish, during a oil spill, if they eat something after oil

1 they might have cancer. I hate to be giving my fish to everybody  
2 and knowing they can catch cancer. The fish are our diet just  
3 like caribou and whale and polar bears. It will be really sad  
4 to see the oil rigs down here and if they have a oil spill  
5 it will harm our food.

6 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: On the cancer and things, where it says  
7 is on page 193 on the EIS Statement.

8 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Maggie and Thomas.

9 MAGGIE KAWALSKY: I have the statement here from my father.  
10 Would you like it translated?

11 CHAIRMAN: Would you like to?

12 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Yeah, I'll translate it.

13 CHAIRMAN: All right.

14 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Thomas.

16 (Statement of Neil Allen, see Attachment)

17 CHAIRMAN: Do you think it's getting a little late? Do  
18 you think we should break or, what do you suggest?

19 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: Mr. Chairman, this is a once in a lifetime  
20 shot.

21 CHAIRMAN: Well, I agree and I would think we want to hear  
22 everyone on this particular issue, but if you think there are  
23 some more people that would like to speak, perhaps we should  
24 break for ten minutes and have a cup of coffee.

25 TRISA HOPSON: Mr. Chairman?

1        CHAIRMAN: Yes?

2        TRISA HOPSON: I'd like to say this in Eskimo and Emily  
3 translate it.

4        CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

5        TRISA HOPSON: (Inupiat) Thank you.

6                                (APPLAUSE)

7        INTERPRETER: She states that these white people who call  
8 themselves conservationists that value whales, she's asking  
9 where are they? These whales we survive on, their feeding grounds  
10 will be destroyed if there's oil spill. Why are they not trying  
11 to help in this case? In our case?

12        CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Trisa. Would anyone else like to  
13 speak at this time?

14        CLAY KAIGELAK: My name is Clay Kaigelak. I talk Eskimo.  
15 (Inupiat)

16        INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

17        CLAY KAIGELAK: (Inupiat) Foggy Island.

18        INTERPRETER: (Inupiat) His name is Clay Kaigelak,  
19 K-A-I-G-E-L-A-K. First of all, he wants to thank for those  
20 who had no answers for questions being asked. He wants to thank  
21 you for that. He is opposed to this lease sale for drilling.  
22 And he states that once the ice starts to move, the movement  
23 is so strong when it starts. And in 1923 he had lived in Foggy  
24 Island and at Beechey Point in 1952. In these areas, he has  
25 lived in. And he's opposed for lease sale or any kind of drilling.

1        CHAIRMAN: What's his first name?

2        INTERPRETER: Clay.

3        CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Clay. Would you like to  
4 speak?

5        RUTH NUKAPIGAK: My name is Ruth, again. (Inupiat)

6        INTERPRETER: Her name is Ruth Nukapigak. She says a lot  
7 of times she has talked about the oil company's exploding dynamite.  
8 (Inupiat)

9        RUTH NUKAPIGAK: (Inupiat)

10       INTERPRETER: Dynamite was left at the mouth of the Itkillik  
11 River. And they are visible from their camping area. She says  
12 there was lots of them. And she's concerned when the people  
13 from this area, either old or young people, when they go hunting,  
14 somebody's bound to get hurt. Oil companies are around it,  
15 dynamites have been exploded several times when they were building  
16 Prudhoe Bay. They are widely scattered which is dangerous when  
17 we go out snowmachine, by snowmachine. They're very dangerous  
18 and there are no trails for them to follow anymore because of  
19 these wires scattered all over the place. Here at Nuiqsut,  
20 we have land that was given to us for us to keep and for us to  
21 care for. She's stating that the oil companies should start  
22 paying, should start compensating for tracking on our land.  
23 She said she is not educated and little English is spoken. She  
24 speak little English but she does talk. If the oil companies  
25 are going deal with this oil, they should clean up good around

1 our area. We should not leave dynamites left behind. There  
2 are barrels, a lot of them, that are left behind. They say  
3 that they clean up; but they don't actually clean up. She says  
4 people from outside our area do not know about this. Land is  
5 destroyed and she had been observing these years, from looking  
6 at the tracks. Her husband and herself had traveled and observed  
7 these areas very carefully. Dynamite has been exploded. They  
8 have dug deep into the earth building highways. Building roads  
9 and are not very far from us. Why are people treating Inupiat  
10 this way? We have a hard way of life. We have no airport,  
11 that you see, the strip that you saw is just a small strip.  
12 And we had asked for help from Juneau to build us an airstrip,  
13 but we have not heard anything as of yet.

14 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ruth. Is there anyone else that  
15 would like to speak?

16 BERNICE AHTUAGARUAK: Yes. My name is Bernice Ahtuagaruk  
17 and I will speak in my language. (Inupiat)

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 INTERPRETER: Her name is Bernice Ahtuagaruk. A-H-T-U-A-G-R-  
20 U-K. She said when her husband is traveling, hunting, she often  
21 follows and the reason why they go hunting is because their  
22 children like to eat on subsistence foods since they have been  
23 raised that way. Sometimes, in the severe winters, their hands  
24 or feet are frozen following caribou but they do follow because  
25 they like to eat these animals. She used an example, they have



1 been compensated for commercial food when they start limiting  
2 them on caribou meat. We're not used to this commercial foods.  
3 Some of them got sick from them. She likes seal oil with her  
4 meat. Same thing, that you like steak sauce with your meat.  
5 She's going to be opposed for lease sale because drilling for  
6 oil is going to destroy our subsistence living.

7 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Bernice. Is there anyone  
8 esle that would like to speak?

9 MARJORIE AHNUKANA: Marjorie Ahnukana. (Inupiat)

10 INTERPRETER: Marjorie Ahnukana, A-H-N-U-K-A-N-A. She  
11 said she is Eskimo, lives on subsistence food. She was born  
12 and raised here. I am opposing for lease sale for drilling.  
13 I like Eskimo food and I fish with nets on the rivers. She  
14 does not care for commercial food. She said she values the  
15 subsistence way of living. She says, we crave for caribou meat  
16 and for fish and this is why she's not for this lease sale.  
17 We were told that we were not teaching our children how to hunt  
18 by white people. But we have been teaching our children how  
19 to live in this environment. Springtime, we teach them how to  
20 hunt. This is the way we live and we teach our children how  
21 we should live. Oil companies are not concerned about our ways  
22 of life. We have been teaching our children and we should be  
23 teaching them and to talk to them. This is how our forefathers  
24 have taught us.

25 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Marjorie.

1        FLORA IPALOOK: My name is Flora Ipolock. (Inupiat)

2                                (APPLAUSE)

3        INTERPRETER: Her name is Flora Ipalook, I-P-A-L-O-O-K.

4        She says she's been hearing the oil destroy our subsistence  
5        animals, but she's concerned about these rivers that are..the  
6        water is getting lower and lower in these rivers, are the oil  
7        companies using these waters also and is this why our fish are  
8        being destroyed also because of the lower water in the rivers?  
9        She's asking, do you put anything in the drill holes when they  
10       are done drilling or for exploration drilling? What do they  
11       do with these? Do they fill them up? She said she was born  
12       and raised here in 1930, here at Nuiqsut. Her mother raised  
13       them while their father is out hunting. She says she took care  
14       of four small brothers and sisters while their parents are gone.  
15       Sometimes they don't have anything to eat all day, until their  
16       parents come home. Few fish, their mother's catch, this is  
17       what they eat. Sometimes one fish. Their mother and their  
18       father goes out hunting further out. She wants to know if these..  
19       drill holes are filled with something. Filled with water or  
20       what? She want to know why these rivers are getting shallower  
21       and shallower?

22       HOYLE HAMILTON: A well, when it's drilled and abandoned,  
23       has to pass the regulation requirements of our Oil and Gas Com-  
24       mission. One of these is well to be plugged, down hole, so  
25       there'll be no communication between any formation that might

1 have fresh water, so it'd be contaminated by the influence of  
2 the well. Or so, if there's any hydrocarbons in any of the  
3 formations, they won't contaminate any of the fresh waters.  
4 And we make certain that this is done. I can assure you that  
5 the wells drilled up here on the North Slope are not having  
6 any influence on your streams, whatsoever.

7 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

8 BESSIE ERICKLOOK: (Inupiat) (Laughter)

9 INTERPRETER: She said that they had taught some white  
10 people here ikooptik. When they were living here, there were  
11 a couple that came up here. They terrible clothing, their clothes  
12 were torn and they didn't have any Inupiat clothing. They said  
13 they made clothes for them and they were afraid of them at first.  
14 These two white people were very afraid of them. Wouldn't go  
15 near them. Near the Eskimo people. They were afraid. They  
16 didn't eat any fish, what they gave. They took pictures while  
17 they were here and they try to talk. They try to communicate  
18 someway. And they said they wanted to go down to Beecher Point.  
19 So they drew maps for them. They learned how to live the Eskimo  
20 way of life and they taught them how to hunt and how to fish,  
21 travel in this area, from fall to July. And he's stating now,  
22 his statements are, that there were no people here. If they  
23 were going to say that, they would not have taught them how  
24 to live in this area.

25 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat) You have to be in Fairbanks

1 tomorrow?

2 CHAIRMAN: Well, our airplane will be back in about a half  
3 an hour so, we have another fifteen minutes if someone wants  
4 to speak.

5 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

6 IRENE OYAGOK: My name's Irene Oyagok and I'd like to say  
7 I oppose drilling on Beaufort Sea. The animals that we live  
8 on are very...there are quite a few children that go out hunting  
9 in our area and I don't want to see that stop. I like to say  
10 that I oppose this drilling.

11 (APPLAUSE)

12 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Irene.

13 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: You're lucky you're only hearing the  
14 women folks.

15 CHAIRMAN: Well, I really appreciate the fact that so  
16 many of the women are telling us the way they feel. That's  
17 what we're here for, you know, as I said before. We came a  
18 long way to hear what people have to say and uh, please speak  
19 up if you have something to say.

20 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

21 ISACC KAIGELAK: I would like to speak out for what I have  
22 been hearing. My old man had been born and raised around here  
23 and I would like to follow in his footsteps. He was born and  
24 raised in Barrow and I would like to follow in his footsteps

25 (APPLAUSE)

1           INTERPRETER: His name is Isacc Kaigelak. K-A-I-G-E-L-A-K.

2           CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Isacc. Would someone else like to  
3 speak?

4           STEVEN BURGESS: Mr. Chairman, my name is Steven Burgess.  
5 B-U-R-G-E-S-S. I'm a consultant for Sohio BP on a project  
6 here under           sponsorship. I speak, uh, primarily as a  
7 private citizen but that's really not possible to separate it  
8 out. The outlines of our program will be presented to you in  
9 the hearings at Barrow. I'd like to add just a couple of things.  
10 One is that, I think the testimony you're hearing here tonight  
11 is particularly interesting and particularly valuable. You're  
12 talking with the one group of people that has to live in the  
13 field. The people who work in the field don't live there. They  
14 have their homes elsewhere. And the, another reason is, I think  
15 that the program that we have been part of here for, since the  
16 month of November, uh, has given the people of Nuiqsut access  
17 to the field as to how it operates, the facilities, drilling  
18 rigs, off shore exploration program, the flow stations. I'm  
19 quite sure that most people in this town have had much more  
20 physical contact with the field than most of you yourselves.  
21 Unless you've had the particular opportunity to be there a lot.  
22 They're very familiar with the operation and I think, partly,  
23 as a result of our program which has been initiated by the  
24 industry, familiar with some of the people who are involved  
25 with running the field. So, I think that uh, I have been, I

1 have been part of a program which was initiated by Sohio Petroleum,  
2 as I've said, and which is now under industry wide sponsorship,  
3 which is a sincere effort to establish an effective working  
4 relationship with the communities surrounding the field. And  
5 also, to provide these communities with the opportunity to es-  
6 tablish a relationship that they see, and that they want with  
7 the field. Thank you.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Steven.

10 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

11 FLORA IPALOOK: (Inupiat)

12 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat) There's a comment from the  
13 floor. If there's anybody from BLM, she would like to hear  
14 some comments on the proposed Beaufort Sea lease sale. What  
15 they think about this whole thing. Is there anybody from BLM?

16 BOB BROCK: I'm from the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage,  
17 the Assistant Manager of the OCS office and the purpose..we've  
18 been assigned by the Secretary of the Interior, to look at this  
19 area. First, we got everybody's comments when we established  
20 the area that we're talking about, about a year ago. Now,  
21 we're writing, on the areas we have in color, an Environmental  
22 Impact Statement to try to display the information we've gathered  
23 and how its going to affect the area, the people, the environ-  
24 ment.. And that's where we're at right now. Is..everybody's  
25 had a chance to look at the Impact Statement, which is this

1 document right here; which, I realize is thick and it was a  
2 short time frame to look at it. But all we're doing is gathering  
3 information. We haven't made the decision. The Secretary of  
4 the Interior and the Governor of the State of Alaska have not  
5 made a decision. All we're doing at this point is gathering  
6 information to then present to them so they can make a decision.  
7 We are not for the sale, or we're not against the sale. All  
8 we're doing is gathering information so it can be elevated up  
9 and to show the problems, the alternatives the Secretary and  
10 the Governor can have.

11 INTERPRETER: (Inupiat)

12 BOB BROCK: Did that answer your question?

13 FLORA IPALOOK: Yes.

14 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: (Inupiat)

15 CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. I think we've had a good  
16 hearing and I would like to close it now. And say thank you  
17 to you and to all the people that are here and the interest  
18 in this. And everything that was said here, we will take into  
19 consideration. And I hope to hear from you personally.

20 THOMAS NAPAGEAK: You will.

21 CHAIRMAN: The meeting is adjourned.

22 (Hearing closed at 12:45 a.m.)  
23  
24  
25

PUBLIC HEARING  
BEAUFORT SEA LEASE SALE  
NUIQSUT, ALASKA  
ATTACHMENT  
May 16, 1979



15 Ruth Nukapigak  
statement

My Name is Ruth Nukapigak I am giving my written testimony even ~~that~~ <sup>though</sup> I am going to be at the meeting, I really want to get the charge to have everyone hear a few things I've noted since the pipe line.

I was born here around at Pow 2. in 1925 and I lived here & around this area for 22 yrs. before moving to Barrow the reason we moved was my mother needed a doctor.

I am really against the Beaufort Sea Sale. Cause of our food is very important we get alot of it from down that area.

My camping place is at Itthilpa we do alot of fishing there every summer, in the year 1974 we were fishing and the river got really red brown and hardly any fish. and in the year 1978 me & my family went back to fish & camp up at Itthilpa again this time our net's got alot of dead fish w/ sores that's when we stoped fishing. I think because of the pipe line our fish got sick like that, we also see the fish had oil on them.

Also around the Pow 2 & up the Itthilpa river there

use to be alot of berry (black-  
gow berries + Cranberry + Samson  
berry. now they don't even  
grow.

and about the ice movement  
when we (my family & I) lived at  
paw 2. we often seen how  
strong the ice movement is -  
nothing stops it from moving  
~~the ice and snow blowing~~ It  
is very dangerous. Also all <sup>left</sup>  
the digmte that the oil co. ~~leaved~~  
~~there~~, behind.

1. My name is Niel Allen. I am giving my written testimony because I ~~have~~ cannot stay at the public hearing because of my health. I think the government should cancel this Beaufort Sea Sale. I am giving my testimony even though I am afraid that ~~the people~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~would~~ the government will not listen to me.

I was born July 5 1905 at Point Hope Alaska. By 1917 my family was at Barrow and then we started moving ~~west~~ toward Thuffen Point just beyond Barter Island. I spent ~~many~~ <sup>about</sup> 18 years in Canada in the MacKenzie Delta area. In 1956 I ~~was~~ moved to Barter Island and I lived there until 1968, when I moved to the Nauyasut area. I have been here ever since. I have a many year experience hunting and trapping in all seasons of the year in the Beaufort Sea.

2. I am against this sale because I believe it will hurt the animals. ~~One reason~~ ~~is that the ice~~ The main reason is that I believe the ice would push over any kind of structure the oil companies might set up offshore. I have seen how strong the ice can be. In 1929 or 1930 I was ~~camp~~ living with my brother on Icy ~~Reef~~ Reef. In December, just before Christmas, a very strong west wind came up. ~~Suddenly the ice began~~ when the weather cleared, we went over to Icy Reef and

## Niel Allen Testimony (2)

we saw how the ice had pushed up on the island.  
My brother measured ~~the ice~~ how thick the ice was - it was as <sup>thick</sup> as the <sup>length of the</sup> pole he carried which was  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet long. That thick sheet of ice had pushed ~~20 feet high and~~ completely over the island. In those days, the island was about ~~20~~ <sup>20</sup> feet high and 200 yards wide. That island is not the big one. From my observations of the lean

~~2. If accidents happen and the oil gets in the water area, I know that if the wind and current goes together, the same kind of ice & push could happen there to any place exposed to the push from the pack ice.~~

3. I oppose this sale because the ~~ice~~ wildlife could get hurt and ~~people~~ me and other ~~people~~ village people must have the wildlife to live. when I have to eat white man's food, I get heartburn. ~~Early~~ Eating ~~raw~~ caribou or seal meat dipped in oil makes my health good again. ~~if I eat meat without the oil, I get~~ can't get ~~rousk~~

Our village has been getting whale oil from Ketchikan and we need it for dipping meat while we eat. I have seen how if we just eat meat and don't have seal oil or whale oil for dipping people get sick then and then. My father told me about such times when he was growing up that one winter they only had Ptarmigan to eat & no oil and they got sick and then cured they finally got some oil.

~~4. Right now I eat native foods every day. For the ~~same~~ The oil is the main thing in the diet. We get weak without it.~~

Niel Allen (31)

Whenever I ~~leave~~ go out hunting,  
I always bring seal or whale oil along or  
I will get weep. ~~Damage to the wildlife in~~  
~~the Beaufort Sea~~

1 - The <sup>whale</sup> oil use comes from Stokholm, ~~the~~  
~~beach~~ and they use the area of the Beaufort  
lease area for their hunting. The whales and  
seals <sup>in</sup> live and migrate through the lease area.

The fish we catch near Nuyssut migrate  
through the lease area. Oil activities there  
could hurt that wildlife.

2.  
Wilber Ahtuangaruak Sr. of Nuiqsut, Alaska  
born at Colliville River Delta

I Wilber have been fishing ever  
Since I could remember. I believe The  
white fish here are not as many as used  
to be. ever since The Oil Companies  
Start drilling I believe There's not  
much white fish. Since ~~they~~ They have  
Start drilling at Flashman Island.

I Think Since The Oil Companies  
Start we start to have less Animal's  
~~such~~ Such as Ducks, Seal's fish of all  
Kinds. Also on The fish The wild  
life ~~put~~ put Tags on are not good  
to eat for where They put The tag  
on The fish never heal's. These fish  
with Tags most of Them always  
have puss on Them.

Also Trailing Through dog Sled and  
Snow Machine I have Seen Copper wires  
which were put out by Surveyer's are  
damaging Animal's. I have Travel  
from here down near Wainwright by  
dog Sled & Snow machines Through These Area's

All Oil Camp's That I went Throug  
have Drums That drains Oil + prestone's  
to The ground. Never Clean The Area  
That They leave behind.

If They Should Start Drilling  
on any part of Land or Sea my wish  
is That They Clean The Area's first  
before They do any more drilling.

Wilkes Ahlu ngahwah Se.

1

My name is Thomas Napageak, and I am the Mayor of Nuiqsut. I was born here in the Arctic Slope, and I have travelled and hunted throughout this region. Because of my lifelong experiences, I know about our environment and the wildlife population. I am fortunate to have learned from my ancestors their knowledge which they gained through thousands of years of living in our Arctic homeland.

I welcome you to Nuiqsut. I hope the testimony and evidence presented at these hearings will be received, evaluated, and utilized in making a decision that respects our Inupiaq culture. ~~I hope that the decision to hold the Federal State Oil and Gas Lease Sale in the Beaufort Sea has not already been made.~~ I hope that the oil companies are not again creating an "energy crisis" to force the decision to hold this sale. I remember very well the energy independence this country was promised if we developed Prudhoe Bay. Now I understand that the same people are proposing to export our petroleum to Japan. Although our experience with oil development is rather short, we have learned their tactics. I hope political pressure will not lead to a decision that destroys the objective of the National Environmental Policy Act.

At great expense to ourselves, we gave Prudhoe Bay to the nation. Prudhoe Bay which was once our hunting grounds and the caribou



CALVING GROUNDS IS LOST TO US AND THE CARIBOU. IT WAS ONLY UNTIL A YEAR AGO THAT WE WERE ABLE TO BEGIN BUYING FUEL FROM PRUDHOE BAY. TWICE WE FACED SERIOUS FUEL SHORTAGES, BUT WE COULD NOT GET FUEL FROM PRUDHOE BAY. ALTHOUGH WE ARE HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO BUY FUEL FROM PRUDHOE BAY NOW, WE ARE AWARE THAT FUEL WAS NOT SOLD TO US UNTIL IT WAS ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE OIL COMPANIES TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US, AND PERHAPS GET OUR SUPPORT FOR A BEAUFORT LEASE SALE.

ABOVE ALL, OUR PRIORITY IS TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT. THE LAND FROM THE BROOKS RANGE TO THE EDGE OF THE SHOREFAST SEA ICE IS MOST SACRED TO THE INUPIAQ. IT PROVIDES US WITH NOURISHMENT FOR OUR BODIES AND CULTURE. WE OPPOSE ANY DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD DESTROY OUR LAND AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES. WE OPPOSE ANY ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD DESTROY OUR SUBSISTENCE CULTURES WHICH HAS BEEN THE STRENGTH OF THE INUPIAT. WE KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO PROTECT THE THREE INCH SNAIL DARTER IN TENNESSEE. WE HOPE THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WILLING TO PROTECT THE BOWHEAD WHALES. WE HOPE THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO PROTECT THE INUPIAQ CULTURE.

THE INUPIAQ CULTURE IS DEPENDENT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE WILDLIFE. THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT STATES THAT ALL BLOCKS OF THE PROPOSED OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE IN THE BEAUFORT SEA POSE POLLUTION RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT OIL SPILLS WILL PROBABLY OCCUR AND CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS.

THE INUPIAT CANNOT AFFORD TO TAKE THAT CHANCE. WE ARE ALREADY UNDER GREAT STRESS AS A RESULT OF OUR CARIBOU SHORTAGE AND THE BOWHEAD WHALE QUOTA WHICH IS AFFECTING OUR SUBSISTENCE CULTURE. WE KNOW THAT THE TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED TO CLEAN OIL SPILLS UNDER THE ICE. AS I UNDERSTAND, THE OIL SPILL IN THE SEA ICE FROM AN ICE BREAKER LAST YEAR CAN'T EVEN BE LOCATED BY YOUR SCIENTISTS OR TECHNICIANS EVEN TO CLEAN IT UP.

YOUR DRAFT E-I-S MAKES THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE ARE MOVING AWAY FROM OUR SUBSISTENCE INTO A CASH ECONOMY. I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TO YOU THAT MAYBE THAT IS THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IT IS NOT OURS. WE HERE IN NUIQSUT, BY OUR OWN PERSONAL CHOICE, LEFT HOMES AND JOBS IN BARROW TO RETURN TO OUR ANCESTRAL LANDS TO LIVE IN TENTS LIKE OUR GRANDPARENTS AND TO LIVE OFF THE LAND. WE RE-ESTABLISHED AN AREA WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN USED BY OUR PEOPLE. THE LAND AND COASTAL REGION PROVIDES US WITH OUR SUBSISTENCE WHICH IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR CULTURE. WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT OUR NATIVE FOOD, NOR WOULD WE WANT TO IF WE COULD. YOUR EIS HAS MANY ERRORS, EVEN ABOUT OUR SUBSISTENCE USE AREAS. THE EIS DID NOT EVEN CONSIDER THE NUIQSUT CULTURAL PLAN WHICH WE DEVELOPED TO PROTECT OUR CULTURE. MAY I SUGGEST THAT YOU TAKE THE TIME TO REVIEW OUR TRADITIONAL LAND USE INVENTORY AND OUR NUIQSUT CULTURAL PLAN. IF YOU HOPE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION, YOU MUST HAVE THE CORRECT INFORMATION AND TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE ABOUT OUR ENVIRONMENT. UNTIL THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN PROVE WITHOUT QUESTION THAT OIL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CAN OCCUR IN THE BEAUFORT SEA ICE

WITHOUT ANY IMPACTS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, I MUST OPPOSE THE BEAUFORT SEA LEASE SALE. UNTIL THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CAN PROVE TO MY SATISFACTION THAT OIL ACTIVITIES WILL NOT IMPACT ON OUR SUBSISTENCE CULTURES, I MUST REMAIN OPPOSED TO THE LEASE SALE. I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MY LAND, MY ANCESTORS, AND MY CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT WHICH GAVE BIRTH TO THE INUPIAQ CULTURE.

Statement by Samuel Kunakanna

In the summertime, it is very important to know what animals are available. We know that the ikalukpik is the main fish. The other species include the qaaktaq, ikalusaaq, pikuktuuq, ikalukaq, natagnat, uukaq, kanayuk, and ilhuagnik that are present in the ocean.

There are numbers of seals, spotted seals that are very vulnerable, also the beluga and the bowhead whales. The polar bear is also abundant on the ice.

The migratory ducks, different pintails use this area for nesting and moulting. The different species of shorebirds are by the thousands when they come to the islands; they include the utaliut, aviuktat, qag-lutiut, ignikautuut, agpayuayuut, tuulik, qagruat and augruat.

The caribou are abundant in the summertime on the shoreline. These are the types of animals and fish that are present in the lease sale area. If a drill rig is to go up on/near the barrier islands, these animals and fish are in great danger of being destroyed. The drill rig might be destroyed from ice movements. I know the ways of nature and what is on those islands. I have used it as my hunting place. I know the area of the Kuukpik River where I have lived; even I have been to the foothills and the mountains looking for game. Knowing this area and having worked with the first oil companies here who have always stated they will do a clean job and will say that they will not affect the fish and wildlife, I know that the drill rig will affect what is presently here.

I also, know that they do directional drilling and this will happen. I do not want to see any drill rigs offshore because of too much risk involved.

5

Statement of Sarah Kunakanna

My name is Sarah Kunakanna and I have lived in this area since 1921. Our family stayed at Kanigluq at Prudhoe Bay till the late 1930's. Our old sodhouse is still standing today. When I visited last summer, I saw that the pingos we used for duck blinds was a burning pit. Our place is a barge landing place instead of a fishing, camping site. There are lot of old sites, camping sites, fishing sites along the coast line. They are there and are being threatened by development.

I remember back in the 1930's when Taakpak caught a whale on Cross Island while we were there. My father used to go whaling to Cross Island in late summer. We also hunted seals, ugruk after whaling. The whales travel very close to these barrier islands. In the summer, we fish for ikalukpik from the ocean and the Sagavanirtuq River. We hook for grayling and net for araaglik in the summer. We get all kinds of white fish by seining in the channels. The Savviugvik River is also abundant for grayling.

In the winter we trapped for white fox and hunted polar bear near/on the barrier islands. The barrier islands carry the same birds, mammals, and fish. It is one whole ecosystem. What you do to one area will affect the other areas.

The ducks and geese use the barrier islands as their home. They nest in June on the sandspits. The pintails moult on the islands in July. There are thousands of them that would be endangered because of this sale. We also depend on the squirrels and ptarmigan on the islands.

I also remember the time we were crossing the channel to go mainland when we came across an open wide lead. The ice went over the islands because of the southwind. The ice can go over the barrier islands. I have also watched such ice movements when Paul Kausanna was taken adrift from the barrier islands. These are some things that you should know.

page two  
Sarah Kunakanna

I would like to see my children and relatives go back to Kanigluq at Prudhoe Bay. I want this land to belong to my children who will be here for generation after generation. I want something in return for this loss of a fishing, historic, camping site. I still wait for the day when the oil companies will give me something in return.

Sarah Kunakanna

6

Statement by Bessie Ericklook

My name is Bessie Ericklook and I have lived in this area all of my life. As a young girl at Cross Island, I have seen how a sodhouse was covered up by a pressure ridge in the wintertime. The wind was so strong that it covered one end of this island. The ice is very dangerous. The shore edge is very dangerous and unpredictable in Oct./Nov.

During one December on one of the islands, another sodhouse was completely covered by pressure ridge. The ice had cracked and the ice turbulent and it took two of Tookak's kids. Another movement and his wife was taken away. You cannot talk of the ice so easily. You cannot control nature, the wind. The wind is the greatest factor. (Here is an example of a picture when the Kuukpik River breakup.)

We went sealhunting during May. And in June, before breakup we head to land again. The islands are used heavily for nesting and moulting ducks, geese and pintails. The islands are important and have historical and cultural significance. There are whalebones and old ruins at Pingok island.

The land and its wildlife, fish have changed today. For example, Putu used to have a free-flowing channel, now, last year, it had to be physically channelled. Two years ago, my brother Paul went to net fish at Itkillikpaat where he ordinarily fished. He came back with no fish. We used to catch fish anytime we put a hook in. The Itkillik River is now rusty colored. There is even a bridge at Puviksuk. This river used to be glassy-clear as I had known it. These are the effects of past activity.

Another example are the destruction of our cellars at Uliktuk. They have been bull-dozed and covered over by past activity.

Trapping was abundant east of here. Now, we don't go over because of the oil field. Just recently, it is known that the foxes are very dirty, discolored and rabid in that area. Trapping is done elsewhere. We used

page two  
Bessie Ericklook

to see grizzly bears around, now, they are not around. Where's the caribou now? One summer when we used to walk miles looking for caribou, we came across 2 dead caribou on unknown reasons. The animals have faced a change; we have faced a change since activity began. If there is to be further activity, the fish and the sea mammals will suffer and we'll suffer too. We depend on the fish, wildlife, and the birds still today. Oil development poses a threat to our lifestyle.





NUIQSUT - 1978  
(Airport under ice)  
Photo by B. Ericklook